

Anderson transition in low-dimensional disordered systems driven by nonrandom long-range hopping

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The single-parameter scaling hypothesis predicts the absence of delocalized states for noninteracting quasiparticles in low-dimensional disordered systems. We show analytically and numerically that extended states may occur in the one- and two-dimensional Anderson model with a *nonrandom* hopping falling off as some *power* of the distance between sites. The different size scaling of the bare level spacing and the renormalized magnitude of the disorder seen by the quasiparticles finally results in the delocalization of states at one of the band edges of the quasiparticle energy spectrum. The delocalized nature of those eigenstates is investigated by numerical diagonalization of the Hamiltonian and by the supersymmetric method for disorder averaging, combined with a renormalization group analysis.

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Localization of noninteracting quasiparticles in random media with time-reversal symmetry and finite-range hopping have been extensively studied since the seminal paper by Anderson [1]. The hypothesis of single-parameter scaling, introduced in Ref. 2, led to the general belief that all eigenstates of noninteracting quasiparticles were exponentially localized in one (1D) and two (2D) dimensions (see Refs. [3, 4] for a comprehensive review) and that localization-delocalization transitions no longer exist in the thermodynamic limit. Despite models with finite-range hopping work nicely in describing a variety of materials, long-range hopping are often found in different physical systems (e.g. Frenkel excitons). Random long-range hopping was found to give rise to delocalization of states not only in three dimensional systems [1] but in any dimension [5, 6, 7, 8]. Recent studies [9] revised the validity of the single-parameter scaling hypothesis even within the original 1D Anderson model with nearest-neighbor coupling, although did not question the statement that all eigenstates in 1D random systems are localized.

In this Letter we present analytical and numerical proofs that a localization-delocalization transition may occur in 1D and 2D systems with *diagonal* disorder and *nonrandom* intersite coupling which falls off according to a power-like law. Apart from the importance of this finding from a general point of view, it may be relevant for several physical systems. As an example, let us mention dipolar Frenkel excitons on 2D regular lattices where molecules are subjected to randomness due to a disordered environment [10]. Biological light-harvesting antenna systems represent a realization of the model we are dealing with [11, 12]. Magnons in 1D and 2D disordered spin systems provide one more example of interest.

We consider the Anderson Hamiltonian on a d -dimensional ($d = 1, 2$) simple lattice with $\mathcal{N} = N^d$ sites:

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}} |\mathbf{n}\rangle \langle \mathbf{n}| + \sum_{\mathbf{nm}} J_{\mathbf{nm}} |\mathbf{n}\rangle \langle \mathbf{m}|, \quad (1)$$

where $|\mathbf{n}\rangle$ is the ket-vector of the state localized at site \mathbf{n} , and $\{\varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}}\}$ are random site energies, assumed to be uncorrelated for different sites and distributed uniformly within an interval $[-\Delta/2, \Delta/2]$, thus having zero mean and standard deviation $\sigma = \Delta/\sqrt{12}$. The hopping integrals between lattice sites \mathbf{m} and \mathbf{n} will be taken in the form $J_{\mathbf{mn}} = J/|\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{n}|^\mu$ ($J_{\mathbf{mm}} \equiv 0$), where $J > 0$ without loss of generality and the lattice constant is set to unity. We stress that hopping integrals do not fluctuate.

For our qualitative reasoning we rewrite the Hamiltonian (1) in the Bloch wave representation, $|\mathbf{k}\rangle = \mathcal{N}^{-1/2} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \exp(i\mathbf{kn}) |\mathbf{n}\rangle$, with periodic boundary conditions. It then reads

$$\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} E_{\mathbf{k}} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}| + \sum_{\mathbf{kk}'} (\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{kk}'} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}'|, \quad (2a)$$

$$E_{\mathbf{k}} = J \sum_{\mathbf{n} \neq 0} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{kn}}}{|\mathbf{n}|^\mu}, \quad (2b)$$

$$(\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{kk}'} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}} e^{i(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')\mathbf{n}}, \quad (2c)$$

where the wavenumbers \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{k}' run over the first Brillouin zone. Notice that $\mu > d$ to ensure the convergence of (2b) in the thermodynamic limit.

The key point of our qualitative arguments is as follows [13]. We compare the size scaling of the typical

magnitude of the scattering matrix $(\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{kk'}}$ with the size scaling of the level spacing δE in the *bare* quasiparticle spectrum of the homogeneous Hamiltonian ($\Delta = 0$). In particular, we focus our attention on those eigenstates laying close to the band edges $\mathbf{k} = 0$ (top) and $\mathbf{k} = \boldsymbol{\pi}$ (bottom), where $\boldsymbol{\pi} = \pi$ and (π, π) for 1D and 2D systems, respectively. The typical fluctuation of the scattering matrix $(\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{kk'}}$ is $\sigma_{\text{eff}} = \sigma/N^{d/2}$. Thus, in spite of the fact that the magnitude of the disorder is σ , the quasiparticle sees an effectively reduced value σ_{eff} . It is important that σ_{eff} scales inversely proportional to $N^{d/2}$. Straightforward calculations of the bare energy spectrum (2b) close to the band edges give the following results:

$$E_{\mathbf{k}} \simeq E_0 - JA_d(\mu) |\mathbf{k}|^{\mu-d}, \quad |\mathbf{k}| \rightarrow 0, \quad (3a)$$

$$E_{\mathbf{k}} \simeq E_{\boldsymbol{\pi}} + JB_d(\mu) |\mathbf{k} - \boldsymbol{\pi}|^2, \quad \mathbf{k} \rightarrow \boldsymbol{\pi}, \quad (3b)$$

where E_0 and $E_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}$ are the band-edge energies and $A_d(\mu)$ and $B_d(\mu)$ are dimensionless constants. From (3) it follows that the level spacing scales as $\delta E \sim N^{-\mu+d}$ at the top of the band, while at the bottom one gets $\delta E \sim N^{-2}$.

The matrix $(\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{kk'}}$ couples the bare (extended) quasiparticle states to each other and may result in their localization within a region of size smaller than the system size. It seems reasonable to assume that the states will be weakly coupled and consequently will be delocalized over the whole system provided the inequality $\sigma_{\text{eff}} \ll \delta E$ holds. It is remarkable that for $\mu < 3d/2$, the level spacing δE at the top of the band diminishes upon increasing N slower than the effective magnitude of disorder σ_{eff} . Therefore, if the coupling between bare states is weak for some finite N ($\sigma_{\text{eff}} \ll \delta E$) then it will become even weaker upon increasing N . Consequently, one may expect that the state will remain extended in the thermodynamic limit $N \rightarrow \infty$. It is also reasonable to assume that disorder of magnitude larger than the bare bandwidth will localize all the states. From the above arguments we conjectured the existence of an Anderson transition in 1D and 2D systems with diagonal disorder and *non-random* long-range hopping as long as $\mu < 3d/2$. Below we provide analytical and numerical confirmations of this conjecture.

Concerning the parabolic range of the energy spectrum (close to the bottom of the band), we notice that the level spacing diminishes as N^{-2} upon increasing the lattice size, i.e., faster than the effective magnitude of disorder σ_{eff} . Now, even if $\sigma_{\text{eff}} \ll \delta E$ for a small lattice size and the states are delocalized, the above inequality will be reverted for larger N , resulting finally in the localization of those states. The same conclusion holds for both band edges within the nearest-neighbor approximation, where the level spacing is always $\delta E \sim N^{-2}$.

A supersymmetric method for disorder averaging [14, 15], combined with a renormalization group (RG) analysis, provide support to the above arguments. In short

(the details will be published elsewhere), the sequence of our steps is as follows. As a first step, we consider the one particle Green's function with the fermionic partition function Z_0 and the bare action S_0 defined as

$$Z_0 = \int \prod_{\mathbf{n}} d\psi_{\mathbf{n}} d\bar{\psi}_{\mathbf{n}} e^{-S_0} = \det (\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E}I), \quad (4a)$$

$$S_0 = \sum_{\mathbf{nm}} i \bar{\psi}_{\mathbf{n}} (\mathcal{H} - \mathcal{E}I)_{\mathbf{nm}} \psi_{\mathbf{m}}, \quad (4b)$$

where $\mathcal{E} = E + i0^+$ and I is the identity matrix. Introducing bosonic ghosts $\beta, \bar{\beta}$ and expressing $1/Z_0$ as a path integral [15], we then average the one particle Green function using the Gaussian probability distribution of site energies, $P(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}}) = (1/\pi g)^{1/2} \exp(-\varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}}^2/g)$, instead of the box distribution introduced in the beginning. This allows us to perform the integration over site energies explicitly. The effective action

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{eff}} = & i \sum_{\mathbf{nm}} [\bar{\psi}_{\mathbf{n}} (J_{\mathbf{nm}} - \mathcal{E} \delta_{\mathbf{nm}}) \psi_{\mathbf{m}} \\ & + \bar{\beta}_{\mathbf{n}} (J_{\mathbf{nm}} - \mathcal{E} \delta_{\mathbf{nm}}) \beta_{\mathbf{m}}] \\ & + \frac{g}{4} \sum_{\mathbf{n}} (\bar{\psi}_{\mathbf{n}} \psi_{\mathbf{n}} + \bar{\beta}_{\mathbf{n}} \beta_{\mathbf{n}})^2, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

which appears after averaging, will be the main object of our RG analysis. For doing this, it is convenient to rewrite the action in the \mathbf{k} -representation and to regroup the terms as follows $S_{\text{eff}} = S_{\text{kin}} + S_{\mathcal{E}} + S_g$, where

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{kin}} = & - iJA_d \int d^d \mathbf{k} |\mathbf{k}|^{\mu-d} [\bar{\psi}(\mathbf{k}) \psi(\mathbf{k}) \\ & + \bar{\beta}(\mathbf{k}) \beta(\mathbf{k})], \end{aligned} \quad (6a)$$

$$S_{\mathcal{E}} = -i\mathcal{E} \int d^d \mathbf{k} [\bar{\psi}(\mathbf{k}) \psi(\mathbf{k}) + \bar{\beta}(\mathbf{k}) \beta(\mathbf{k})], \quad (6b)$$

$$\begin{aligned} S_g = & \frac{g}{8\pi} \int \prod_{i=1}^4 d^d \mathbf{k}_i \delta(\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 - \mathbf{k}_3 - \mathbf{k}_4) \\ & \times [\bar{\psi}(\mathbf{k}_1) \psi(\mathbf{k}_2) + \bar{\beta}(\mathbf{k}_1) \beta(\mathbf{k}_2)] \\ & \times [\bar{\psi}(\mathbf{k}_3) \psi(\mathbf{k}_4) + \bar{\beta}(\mathbf{k}_3) \beta(\mathbf{k}_4)]. \end{aligned} \quad (6c)$$

We have absorbed the constant E_0 into \mathcal{E} in (6b). Note as well that the integration over momenta are restricted to a d dimensional sphere of radius Λ , i.e. $|\mathbf{k}| < \Lambda$, with Λ being an ultraviolet cutoff.

The action (6) is the starting point of our RG analysis, which is inspired by Shankar's approach [16] to fermionic condensed matter systems. The key observation is that the kinetic part of the action, S_{kin} , is invariant under the following scaling transformation of the cutoff Λ , the momenta \mathbf{k} and the fields:

$$\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda' = \Lambda/b, \quad \mathbf{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{k}' = b \mathbf{k}, \quad b > 1 \quad (7a)$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{k}'/b) = b^{\mu/2} \phi(\mathbf{k}'), \quad \phi = \psi, \bar{\psi}, \beta, \bar{\beta}. \quad (7b)$$

For generic values of $\mu > d$, Eq. (7a) is a non standard scaling law which emerges from the unusual kinetic term (6a).

Driven by (7), the *mass* term $S_{\mathcal{E}}$ also transforms into itself with a new *coupling constant* \mathcal{E}' given by $\mathcal{E}' = b^{\mu-d} \mathcal{E}$. Thus \mathcal{E} is a relevant perturbation of the free action S_{kin} , as it is always the case of mass terms [16].

The term S_g also transforms onto itself under the following RG transformation $g' = b^{2\mu-3d} g$. This equation implies that g eventually goes to zero upon increasing b provided that $\mu < 3d/2$. Hence, randomness vanishes in the low energy effective theory for $\mu < 3d/2$. On the contrary, g runs to stronger coupling whenever $\mu > 3d/2$.

Finally, the coupling g is marginal at tree level for $\mu = 3d/2$, and one has to consider the one loop effects to see its fate. This can be done using the techniques developed in Ref. [16]. Let us present our main results. The RG flows of the constants g and \mathcal{E} , up to one loop, are given by

$$\frac{d\bar{g}}{ds} = (2\mu - 3d) \bar{g} + \bar{g}^2, \quad (8a)$$

$$\frac{d\bar{\mathcal{E}}}{ds} = (\mu - d) \bar{\mathcal{E}} - \bar{g}, \quad (8b)$$

where s is the RG parameter defined as $b = \exp(s)$, and \bar{g} and $\bar{\mathcal{E}}$ are related to g and \mathcal{E} as follows

$$g = \frac{\pi}{\Omega_d} (JA_d)^2 \Lambda^{2\mu-3d} \bar{g}, \quad \mathcal{E} = \frac{1}{4} JA_d \Lambda^{\mu-d} \bar{\mathcal{E}}, \quad (9)$$

with Ω_d being the volume of the d -dimensional sphere.

Equation (8a) has an unstable fixed point $\bar{g}_* = 3d - 2\mu$ provided that $\mu < 3d/2$ (see Fig. 1a). Below this point, the coupling g goes to zero asymptotically, while above g grows. For $\mu > 3d/2$ the critical point disappears and the system always flows to strong coupling (see Fig. 1b). This signals about some changes in the density of states and the different nature of the eigenfunctions when passing from $\mu < 3d/2$ to $\mu > 3d/2$. We would like to remark the fact that the critical value $\mu = 3d/2$ appeared in the present RG analysis coincides with that found on the basis of our qualitative arguments.

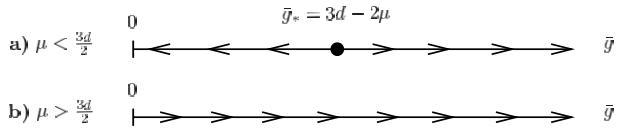


FIG. 1: RG-flows for the coupling constant \bar{g} , Eqs. (8a) and (9), depending on the value of the exponent μ .

It is usually argued that the averaged one-particle Green function does not carry information about the spatial extent of the eigenfunctions. Therefore, we chose

the generalized inverse participation ratios (GIPR) as the relevant quantities to characterize localization properties of the states. The standard definition reads $I_{\nu}^{(q)} = \langle \sum_{\mathbf{n}} |\Psi_{\nu\mathbf{n}}|^{2q} \rangle$, where $\Psi_{\nu\mathbf{n}}$ is the probability amplitude of the normalized eigenstate ν at site \mathbf{n} , and the brackets denote disorder averaging. As is well known, the GIPR scales as $I_{\nu}^{(q)} \sim \mathcal{N}^{-q+1}$ for delocalized states ($q \neq 1$), while shows no size scaling for localized ones.

Our main steps in calculating the GIPR are as follows. We estimated the uppermost eigenfunction, $\Psi_{0\mathbf{n}}$, using perturbation theory with respect to the random term $\sum_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} (\delta\mathcal{H})_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'} |\mathbf{k}\rangle \langle \mathbf{k}'|$ in (2a), namely considering the on-site energies small compared to the hopping parameter J , $|\varepsilon_{\mathbf{n}}| \ll J$. Then, $\Psi_{0\mathbf{n}}$ can be written in real space as

$$\Psi_{0\mathbf{n}} = \frac{e^{\phi_{\mathbf{n}}}}{(\sum_{\mathbf{n}} e^{2\phi_{\mathbf{n}}})^{1/2}}, \quad (10a)$$

$$\phi_{\mathbf{n}} \equiv \sum_{\mathbf{m}} S_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{m}} \varepsilon_{\mathbf{m}}, \quad (10b)$$

$$S_{\mathbf{n}\mathbf{m}} \equiv \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \sum_{\mathbf{k} \neq 0} \frac{e^{i\mathbf{k}(\mathbf{m}-\mathbf{n})}}{E_0 - E_{\mathbf{k}}}. \quad (10c)$$

In order to compute the GIPR we again made use of the supersymmetric method for disorder averaging (as described above) with the bare action given by Eq. (5), as well as the replica trick introduced in Ref. 17. The latter reads

$$I_0^{(q)} = \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{N^d} \sum_{\mathbf{n}, \mathbf{n}_1, \dots, \mathbf{n}_{r-q}} \left\langle e^{2q\phi_{\mathbf{n}}} \prod_{j=1}^{r-q} e^{2\phi_{\mathbf{n}_j}} \right\rangle. \quad (11)$$

In doing so, we found that $I_0^{(q)} \sim \mathcal{N}^{-(q-1)d}$ provided when $d < \mu < 3d/2$; in other words, the generalized dimension equals the space dimension so that the uppermost state is delocalized, in full agreement with our qualitative picture. In particular, notice that the so called inverse participation ratio (IPR) scales as $I_0^{(2)} \sim \mathcal{N}^{-1}$.

Since the previous analytical study of the GIPR was perturbative, we have also carried out a numerical study of the model to support the validity of our conclusions. We took advantage of the Lanczos method [18] as well as the density matrix renormalization group approach [19], allowing one to calculate some few eigenstates of the Hamiltonian (1) for rather large system size. In Fig. 2 we plotted the IPR ($q = 2$) of the uppermost state as a function of the system size $\mathcal{N} = N^d$ for different degrees of disorder Δ . The behaviour of the other top states is similar to that which manifests the uppermost state. Observing Fig. 2 we conclude that the uppermost state is delocalized even for a moderately high value of the degree of disorder ($\Delta = 8J$ in 1D systems and $\Delta = 40J$ in 2D system), provided $d < \mu < 3d/2$. For comparison, the 1D (2D) bandwidth for $\mu = 5/4$ ($\mu = 9/4$) in the absence of disorder is of the order of $10.5J$ ($28J$). However,

for large degree of disorder the IPR remains constant on increasing the system size (see Fig. 2 for $\mu = 5/4$, $d = 1$ and $\Delta = 40J$), indicating that the uppermost eigenstate is localized. Therefore, the top eigenstates undergo the Anderson transition on increasing Δ whenever $d < \mu < 3d/2$. It is to be noticed the absence of scaling of the IPR and the subsequent localization for $d = 1$, $\mu = 3$, and $\Delta = 8J$. This result is in full correspondence with the analytical analysis stating that no transition is expected in this case.

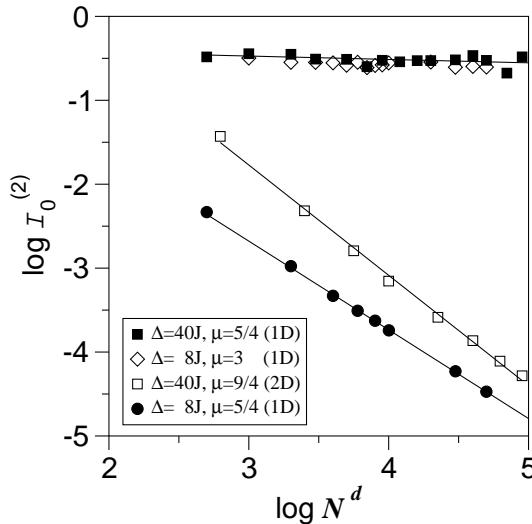


FIG. 2: Scaling of the IPR of the uppermost eigenstate as a function of the number of sites $N = N^d$ for different magnitudes of disorder Δ in 1D ($d = 1$) and 2D ($d = 2$) lattices.

In summary, we have shown analytically and numerically that a power-like *nonrandom* intersite hopping, $J_{\mathbf{nm}} = J/|\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{m}|^\mu$, may act towards delocalization of quasiparticle states in low dimensional systems. In particular, the states of the top of the band may be delocalized at rather high magnitudes of disorder ($\Delta \gg J$) and undergo a localization-delocalization transition as the magnitude of disorder increases. Scaling arguments provide a clear physical picture of the underlying mechanism responsible for the delocalization of the states, in spite of the low-dimensional ($d \leq 2$) geometry of the system. The different size scaling of the bare level spacing, $\delta E \sim N^{-\mu+d}$, and the magnitude of disorder seen by a quasiparticle, $\sigma_{\text{eff}} \sim \Delta/N^{d/2}$, is the feature of the model responsible for this unusual behavior. δE decreases slower than σ_{eff} upon increasing the system size as long as $d < \mu < 3d/2$, resulting in the delocalization of the corresponding quasiparticle states in the thermodynamic limit. We stress that the main finding of our study, namely the existence of the Anderson transition in a physically relevant model, has been concluded on the basis of three different approaches and the conclusions obtained are self-consistent. Most important, the validity of the scaling analysis is not limited to the present model.

Indeed, it is established on solid grounds that the standard, three dimensional Anderson model manifests the localization-delocalization transition at the band center. Within this model, the bare level spacing at the band center diminishes proportionally to N^{-1} , while the magnitude of effective disorder goes down faster, $\sim N^{-3/2}$, thus being unable to localize the states at the band center for a moderate disorder. A strong disorder (large compared to the band width) localizes the states, giving rise a localization-delocalization transition. We can then be confident that this kind of scaling arguments may provide physical insight in several localization problems.

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